2000-01. The budgetary increase in percentage terms is limited under most of the Heads. However, plan components of the budget and non-plan allocation for loans, grants, aid and credits to Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar have increased by a total of Rs. 700 crores over this period. While taking care of the growing expenditure arising out of opening of new Missions, bilateral technical cooperation projects/programmes, high level commitments for aid etc., the budget of the Ministry reflects austerity measures being implemented by the Government under various heads.

Agreement to hand over Kachchativu to Sri Lanka

2661. SHRI S. NIKRAIKULATHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the terms of the original agreement on which Kachchativu was given to Sri Lanka;

(b) whether the agreement was subsequently amended;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor together with the details of the amendment;

(d) whether the Constitution of India was amended while giving Kachchativu to Sri Lanka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The Agreement between India and Sri Lanka on the Boundary in Historic Waters between the Two Countries and Related Matters was signed in June 1974. The Agreement states that Indian fishermen and pilgrims will enjoy access to visit Kachchativu as hitherto and will not be required by Sri Lanka to obtain travel documents or visas for these purposes.

(b) and (d) No, Sir.

(c) and (e) Do not arise.

Disappearance of Officials from Indian Missions

2662. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain junior level Indian Officials holding diplomatic passport disappeared during their postings at Indian Missions abroad;